

Presidential Debate Bingo 2012

As you watch the debate, write in a key debate word for each square before you "x" it out. Make sure you can still read the printed word as well as the word you wrote.

Energy	Taxes	Candidate hesitates	Predict a question	Candidate laughs
Budget	Education	Unemployment	Deficit	Social Security
Healthcare	Predict a question	Free	Domestic terrorism	Move away from domestics
First applause	Angry candidate	Federal Reserve	Religion	Media
Environment	Predict a question	Polls	Marriage equality	Predict a question

1. What is the purpose of a debate?
2. To whom do you think the candidates are speaking? Provide evidence to support your answer. ("undecideds", independents, party faithful, etc.)
3. How does the candidate's appearance and/or speaking ability influence your opinion of their performance in the debate? If they don't, explain why. (Watch for voice inflection and watch their eyes.)
4. Did this debate change your mind about any candidate or issue? Explain your answer.
5. Who do you think won the debate? Why? (Don't just go with what your friends or family say or what you hear on tv, radio, or see on the Internet. Think about what you consider important in a presidential candidate and use that to direct your decision.)

Techniques of Persuasion

Source: <http://debate.uvm.edu/dcpdf/cpd2000.pdf>

Politicians' most powerful arguments can be misleading. In fact, research shows we're often swayed by faulty logic. As you listen to the presidential candidates debate the issues, give them the "logic check-up." If you catch a candidate using one of these techniques, record the examples in the spaces provided.

- ✓ **Appeal to Emotion:** Summons fear, anger or pity to secure listener support.
"If we don't fight crime my way, your child won't feel safe walking the streets."
- ✓ **Bandwagon:** Encourages the listener to do something because it's the popular thing to do.
"More and more of us want new blood in Washington, and we're voting for Jones."
- ✓ **Card Stacking:** Presents the evidence in a partial or slanted way.
"The average income is rising" - technically correct, but only the top 10% incomes are up.
- ✓ **False Cause:** Insists that one event caused the other just because it came first.
"As soon as Jones was elected, savings banks began to fail."
- ✓ **False Dilemma:** Poses only two choices when there are a variety of possibilities.
"Choose Smith and you'll get inflation; choose Jones and the budget will be balanced."
- ✓ **Glittering Generalities:** Says little specifically, but conveys emotion.
"John Jones has made this nation a better place."
- ✓ **Hasty Generalization:** Bases a conclusion on insufficient evidence.
"Dropping out of school must be a problem because I saw an article about it."
- ✓ **Name Calling:** Uses negative labels to stigmatize opponents.
"My opponent is a card-carrying liberal."
- ✓ **Slippery Slope:** Claims that an event will lead to an uncontrollable chain reaction.
"First they outlaw machine guns, and then they'll take your hunting rifles."
- ✓ **Testimonial:** Convinces only through the endorsement of a respected personality.
"If he's okay with General Colin Powell, then he's okay with me."

Technique	Obama	Romney
Appeal to Emotion		
Bandwagon		
Card Stacking		
False Cause		
False Dilemma		
Glittering Generalities		
Hasty Generalization		
Name Calling		
Slippery Slope		
Testimonial		

My child has viewed the presidential debate and has completed the work assigned to accompany the viewing.

Parent Signature

Date